



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

JAMES S. REINHARD, M.D.  
COMMISSIONER

Post Office Box 1797  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921  
Voice/TDD (804) 371-8977  
[www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov](http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov)

### Memorandum

**To:** CSB Executive Directors

**From:** James S. Reinhard, M.D.

**Date:** June 10, 2008

**Re:** **Mental Health Reform Guidance Memo #2: Launch of Web Page**

Recently, I issued the first of a series of "Reform Guidance Memos" related to the mental health legislation that goes into effect on July 1, 2008. This is the second memorandum in that series.

**Background:** Significant changes will take effect on July 1, 2008 in the process by which persons with mental illness may be treated on an involuntary basis in Virginia. Major changes will also go into effect in other important areas of law at this time, and new programs will get underway to support these initiatives. Effective implementation of the new laws will require extensive changes in local practices throughout the Commonwealth. One intended outcome of this change process is that service delivery practices become more consistent statewide.

**Issue:** To support a common understanding of the reform initiatives and the development of consistent practices statewide, **DMHMRSAS has launched a new Web page to disseminate information about the 2008 mental health law reforms and related matters.** The new Web page resides on the DMHMRSAS Web site and can be accessed through this link: [www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/OMH-MHReform.htm](http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/OMH-MHReform.htm).

**Guidance:** The Web page is intended to be a useful source of reliable and consistent information for administrators, practitioners, and other officials to understand and effectively implement the new mental health initiatives in their communities. The Web page is also targeted to consumers and families of persons receiving services. All of these stakeholders should be involved in the planning, implementation and oversight process for these new initiatives. The organization and content of the Web page should be self-explanatory, but the Department welcomes feedback to improve its utility. Mechanisms to contact the Department with feedback or questions are among the Web page functions.

**Conclusion:** I want to reiterate how important it is to see the new initiatives working effectively in our communities. I hope this new resource will assist in that process. Again, I appreciate your hard work and commitment to meeting the needs of Virginia's citizens with mental illness. Thank you.

c: The Honorable Marilyn B. Tavenner  
The Honorable Chief Justice Leroy Hassell  
The Honorable Robert McDonnell  
State Facility Directors  
Mary Ann Bergeron  
Victoria Cochran  
Betty Long  
Scott Johnson  
Brian Parrish  
Paula Price  
Mira Signer